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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/590,849

08/25/2006

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46969-5449

3807

55694 7590 08/13/2008
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EXAMINER

PSITOS, ARISTOTELIS M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2627

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/13/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/590,849 | Applicant(s) KIKUCHI, IKUYA | |
| | Examiner Aristotelis M. Psitos | Art Unit 2627 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The submitted IDS documents have been reviewed and made of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

1. Claims 1-3,5,7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the acknowledged prior art, or the JP document 2001-307370, either further considered with Lee et al and further considered with Suzuki et al.

Either the acknowledged prior art or Jp 2001-307370,i.e. the acknowledged prior art identified as JP 10-106012 in the specification is relied upon for disclosing the basic optical system lacking the particular "light shielding panel" and position thereof. Similarly, the JP 2001-307370 document is relied upon for the reasons stated in the submitted search report - see noted paragraphs 30-36, 45-46, and

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claims 1 & 2 as identified in the submitted EP document search report. The examiner concludes that such portions also lack the above noted "light shielding panel" and positioning location.

The ability of "shielding" the amount of light projected/focused onto a multi-layered or multiple diverse record media is well established as taught by the Lee et al reference - see for instance the discussion of element 110 in this document.

In additional, the placement of an appropriate "light shielding" element at the conjugate plane/position is also well known in the optical arts – see for instance in Suzuki et al the discussion with respect to element 11 in figure 1.

It would have been obvious to modify either of the base systems with the above noted teachings from the secondary references; motivation is to ensure proper signal C/N, intensity, reduction of interference upon reflected light, etc. as is taught by the above secondary systems. One of ordinary skill in the art would place the appropriate light controlling element at an optimum position (such as the imaging plane/conjugate position) for such a purpose.

With respect to the limitation of claim 2, i.e., a driver, such is considered inherent in the overall combination of elements, i.e., use of such standard mechanical components, i.e. a driver for their inherent capability/use in this environment is necessary in order to correct for system distortions such as aberration.

With respect to claims 3, 5 and 8, that is the purpose of the overall light shielding element, i.e., shield the reflected light. The diameter of the pin hole/aperture/diaphragm is predicated upon the spot size required/necessary to rec/reproduce the information on the record media, and hence is an obvious requirement.

2. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ueyama.

The Ueyama reference is the equivalent US/English system of the cited JP 9-161282 document relied upon in the EP search report for teaching such an element.

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The examiner relies upon those corresponding passages equivalent to the paragraphs cited in the JP document as also teaching this limitation.

It would have been obvious to modify the base systems as relied upon above with this additional teaching, motivation is as discussed in the Ueyama reference.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The remaining cited prior art system disclose alternative methodologies/apparatus for optical signal control in this environment, in Maruyama see the discussion wrt element 20 and its components, in Milster et al, see the discussion wrt the optical filter, element 115, and in Itonaga see the discussion wrt element 17.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aristotelis M. Psitos whose telephone number is (571) 272-7594. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thr: 6:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William R. Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Aristotelis M Psitos
Primary Examiner
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/Aristotelis M Psitos/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2627